

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MAY 15, 2013**  
**WORK SESSION**

Members Present: Nelson Almeida, Gary Sagar, Michael Brady,  
Robert McLintock, David Parker

Town Administrator: Pamela T. Nolan

Chairman Almeida called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

He advised that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, anybody taping the meeting must notify the Chair at the beginning of the meeting. All Board of Selectmen meetings are taped via audio and video and televised on TV 9.

**Continued Discussion on Article “Revolving” or “Gift Account” for Veterans Memorial Park Committee**

Mrs. Nolan referred to a memo from Finance Director Bruce Alexander. He explained the Veterans Service Officer makes deposits through turnovers in both accounts (Veterans Services gift account and Veterans Memorial gift account). He is authorized by the Board of Selectmen to pay expenses from the Veterans Services gift account. However, the Veterans Memorial gift account requires authorization of the Veterans Memorial Committee. The Board of Selectmen approves all expenditures by signing the weekly warrant. M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53 is very specific on how these accounts can be used and donations to the Veterans Memorial would not qualify.

Mr. Parker advised that it is no longer an issue. Mr. David Viera and Mr. Alexander met and resolved the matter.

**Continued Discussion on Town Meeting Warrant**

Mrs. Nolan presented the final version of the warrant. One article was removed by CPC.

Article 11 is a Community Preservation Committee article to take land by Architectural Preservation Restriction.

She sent the warrant back to boards and committees and received many concerns about the petitioned articles. She explained in an e-mail that petitioned articles have to be printed as received. The last two articles are from the Planning Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To discuss Article 6 first.

Mr. Parker had a problem with this article, which read “to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, transfer from free cash or available funds in the treasury, or transfer form designated funds that have been reserved for appropriation the following sums to be expended for continuing leases for departmental equipment, or take any other action relative thereto: ---”. He wanted to reword the article because six of the items are not for continued leases. He felt the Moderator would not allow this. He couldn’t believe that Town Counsel approved it.

Mrs. Nolan noted that Town Counsel and Town Moderator said it was OK.

Mr. Parker said that state law requires the posting of articles only. The posting of motions is not required.

Mrs. Nolan said the Charter calls for posting motions 14 days prior to Town Meeting.

Mr. Brady agreed with Mr. Parker.

MCIC Chairperson Lauren Walsh suggested a comma after continuing leases, for departmental equipment, or take any other action relative thereto:

Mr. Parker motioned, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To support and include Article 6 on the warrant for the June 10, 2013 Town Meeting. Further, that any project under the control of the Board of Selectmen is checked by the appropriate representative of the Town to make sure the work was done properly prior to payment.

Prior to the vote, Ms. Walsh explained the items followed by a lengthy discussion.

Ms. Walsh said this was provided by Mrs. Nolan as a draft. #1 - \$73,043 is correct, The Seekonk High School stage is 20% to 30% less than the facilities study.

The walkways and drainage at Martin School are not in compliance because of the pitch of the walkways.

Mr. Sagar said the information is troubling and unfortunate since those buildings are not that old.

Ms. Walsh felt that the MCIC should meet with the School Department, Finance, and others involved to discuss these issues. She felt there is no system in place to hold people accountable.

Mr. McLintock referred to the Public Safety Complex where the roof became a problem after two years. He said a lot of things are done without a final inspection.

Ms. Walsh stated that on May 1<sup>st</sup> the School Department indicated it needed an additional \$110,000 to add granite curbing to the walkways project at Martin School. That is in addition to the \$78,500.

The MCIC voted to request a bid for asphalt. The Chairman of the School Committee responded that the contact person was on vacation. Ms. Walsh noted that the MCIC did not plan to amend the amount to include the \$110,000.

She said the \$161,300 is the right quote for the roof drainage at Seekonk Public Library.

Items #4, 5, and 6 are for the Department of Public Works, #7 is for a backup server, and #8 is for the last year of the telecommunications network and applications.

Mr. Sagar asked about the process and the role of the MCIC. The article read submitted by the Board of Selectmen, and yet Board members did not see the articles until last week.

He had concerns about the purchase of trucks.

Ms. Walsh said she had information she could provide to the Board.

Mr. Sagar said he was not opposed but would rather go out to bid than use the Massachusetts bid list.

Mr. Brady said, according to the Charter, the Town Administrator is responsible for capital improvements with the assistance of the CIC. Going forward, the Board needs to get a priority list from the Town Administrator.

Mr. Sagar wanted to reevaluate the process.

Mr. Brady questioned the need for a new stage floor at the high school. He felt it could be refurbished.

Ms. Walsh replied that the floor is 50 years old.

Mr. Brady felt that money should not be spent on projects unless the town professionals, such as the Building Inspector, Health Agent, and Town Engineer, check the work to make sure the jobs are done properly. He noted the Town spent \$127,000 a few years ago on the library roof and some of the buildings are not even paid for.

Ms. Walsh said that is why the CIC felt it was necessary to approach the facilities study from the description of the situation. This is only the first phase.

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Mr. Brady emphasized that he did not want to spend another penny on any project until our experts say the job was done properly.

Ms. Walsh said the Board has to set goals and objectives in instituting a capital plan in conjunction with the operating budget. That process should begin in September or October.

Mr. Sagar said the Martin School should have a set of architectural drawings. He suggested that, prior to Town Meeting, Town Engineer David Cabral look at the plans to see if everything was done correctly.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To include Article 1 (Report of Town Officers or Committees) as submitted on the warrant for the Town Meeting of June 10, 2013.

Mr. Sagar requested that all three Building Committees make a presentation at the Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To include Article 2 (transfer of funds) as submitted on the warrant for the Town Meeting of June 10, 2013.

Mr. Sagar stated that the Town cannot sustain the degree of expenditures that has been going on. There was an opportunity to save money through the new financing and the health insurance and pension assessment. That was all wiped out. He recommended the document, FY' 14 budget estimated revenue and expenses, be distributed at Town Meeting and included on the website.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To include Article 3 (revolving funds) as submitted on the warrant for the Town Meeting of June 10, 2013.

A motion was made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To include Article 4 (compensation) as submitted on the warrant for the June 10, 2013 Town Meeting.

The vote: Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye; Mr. Parker – Abstained.

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A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To include Article 5 (\$10,000 transfer dog receipts) as submitted on the warrant for the Town Meeting of June 10, 2013.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To include Article 7 (Community Preservation Fund) as submitted on the warrant for the Town Meeting of June 10, 2013.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To include Article 8 (disposal of surplus property/material) as submitted on the warrant for the Town Meeting of June 10, 2013.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To include Article 9 (Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of revenue) as submitted on the warrant for the June 10, 2013 Town Meeting.

Mr. McLintock advised that the senior center building committee had met with the architect the previous night. The cost of the building will remain at \$2.5M. The architect will work the size of the building to stay within that figure. The additional money requested will be in the \$300,000 to \$500,000 range.

Mrs. Nolan said the size was cut down to 6,200 sq. ft. compared to the original 9,200 sq. ft. . It will go to 7,200 sq. ft. with the additional money.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To include Article 10 (Senior Center) on the warrant for the June 10, 2013 Town Meeting.

The vote: Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Abstained.

Mr. Brady felt the people should decide.

Mr. Parker noted that, if approved at Town Meeting, it would have to go to an election. The Town Clerk needs a minimum of 35 days notice.

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A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To include Article 11 (Agricultural Preservation Restriction at 100 School Street) as submitted on the warrant for the June 10, 2013 Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To include Article 12 (Seekonk Home Rule Charter) and Article 13 (call firefighters) on the warrant for the June 10, 2013 Town Meeting. (No recommendation; submitted by Petition.)

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To include Article 14 (/temporary moratorium on medical marijuana treatment centers) as submitted on the warrant for the June 10, 2013 Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To include Article 15 (Photovoltaic Facility Overlay District) as submitted on the warrant for the June 10, 2013 Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To include Article 16 (Zoning designation) as submitted on the warrant for the June 10, 2013 meeting.

The vote: Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Abstention.

Presentation of the articles at Town Meeting as follows: Chairman Almeida – 1 to 3 and 16, Mr. Brady – 4 to 6, Mr. Parker – 7 to 9, Mr. McLintock – 10 to 12, and Mr. Sagar 13 to 15.

Mr. Sagar referred to Article 13 by petitioner re: the reestablishment of the call firefighters. He noted that the previous Board of Selectmen had voted to abolish call firefighters. He suggested that residents read the minutes of the meetings to get the background.

Mr. Brady and Mr. Sagar questioned why Town Counsel had not signed the warrant. Mr. Brady requested notification on Kopelman & Paige stationery that the warrant had been reviewed and found to be in proper order.

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### **Sign Warrant for Town Meeting**

Warrant was signed.

There was discussion on the state budget and local state aid.

Mrs. Nolan noted that Mr. Alexander had studied the figures and there is no reason for concern.

Mr. Parker commended the Town Treasurer, who negotiated \$1.5M in debt because she refinanced. That won't be there next year.

Mr. McLintock asked how does the debt exclusion refund.

Mrs. Nolan said it does not go into the budget. It has to be paid but doesn't have to put in the budget.

Mr. Parker said it is outside the levy limit.

Mr. Sagar said that spending is 66% less. The debt exclusion is \$180,000.

Mr. Parker said there will be a less increase in taxes when the debt exclusion is done.

Chairman Almeida announced the Memorial Day Parade would take place on Saturday, May 25, 2013 at 10 a.m. starting at the high school and ending at the middle school. The American Legion will have a cookout.

Armed Forces Day will be observed on Saturday, May 18, 2013, with a ceremony at Town Hall at 11 a.m.

Mr. Brady apologized for comments he made at the previous meeting regarding the animal shelter. He was not questioning the integrity of the Animal Control Officer. He intended to raise the point that certain things were supposed to be done with the money.

Chairman Almeida announced the next Board meeting would be on Wednesday, May 29, 2013.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To dissolve at 7:18 p.m.

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The vote: Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye;  
Chairman Almeida – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Brady, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary